

Series: Lasting Impact
Title: Misconceptions about Following Jesus
Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20
Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



How can you help a person _____ Jesus?

Relationships

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Discipleship is “representing Christ to others through words and actions” — Rob Fisher, The Simplicity of Disciplemaking, p. 21

Discipleship

Includes Relationship

Misconception #1: Discipleship is only for _____ and _____

Matthew 28:19 ESV

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Jesus’ mission for everyone who follows him is “as you are going, represent me to others through your words and actions.”

Misconception #2: We think _____ supplant _____

Matthew 28:19-20 ESV

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Programs are good, but they must focus on providing opportunities where you can represent Christ through your words and actions

Misconception #3: Discipleships goal is for people to be better _____

Philippians 3:10-11 ESV

10 that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Jesus' goal for your life is that you can know him, and through knowing Him you can represent him to others through your words and actions

Misconception #3: Evangelism and discipleship are _____ tasks

Matthew 28:19-20 ESV

19 **Go** therefore and make **disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**Don't let misconceptions stop you from simply representing _____
in your _____ and _____ as you go through life.**

11/09/25

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Getting to know you Questions:

1. What's the strangest or most unexpected place you've had a deep conversation with someone?
2. Imagine Jesus handed out Yelp reviews of discipleship efforts — what might your review say?

Into the Bible Questions: Read Matthew 28:19-20

1. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?
2. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?
3. Why do you think we tend to overcomplicate discipleship when Jesus made it simple?
4. Why do you think relationships are God's primary method of spreading the gospel?
5. How does redefining "Go" as "As you are going" change the way we think about discipleship?
6. Why is it tempting to think only pastors and missionaries can disciple others?
7. Why do we often confuse the fruit of discipleship (church involvement, Bible reading) with the goal of discipleship?
8. What is the danger of focusing only on self-discipline rather than knowing Jesus personally?
9. How does sharing personal stories of life-change through Jesus demonstrate discipleship in action?
10. What are some simple ways you've seen discipleship happen outside of formal church settings?

For Extra Study, Read John 20:19-21

1. Why do you think the disciples were hiding behind locked doors when Jesus appeared to them?
2. In what ways does the resurrection give us confidence to represent Christ to others through our words and actions?
3. How is Jesus' sending of the disciples in v.21 similar to the sending in Matthew 28:18–20?
4. How does Jesus model simple, relational discipleship in the way He interacted with His disciples after the resurrection?
5. Why is it significant that Jesus sends His disciples immediately, not after years of training?
6. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application Questions:

1. Has anyone ever discipled you? What was helpful, not helpful, in the way they did it?
2. What fears keep you from stepping into discipling relationships, and how can Jesus' authority and presence (Matt. 28:18,20) address those fears?
3. Who in your life is "hungry" to know God, and how might you begin/continue a relationship with them?
4. Which of the four misconceptions about discipleship do you most identify with? Why? Why should you let it go?
5. This week, where will you likely be "as you are going" that could open doors for representing Christ?
6. What's one "program" or church activity you could use as a springboard for relationship-building?
7. How can you focus on knowing Jesus, instead of only accomplishing good religious tasks?
8. What does it look like to intentionally represent Jesus in your everyday routines? What needs to change?
9. Who will you pray for by name this week, asking God to open a door for a discipleship relationship?